

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 09083 170708Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01
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CINCPAC HI/XP
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MAC SCOTT IL/XP
AFSC ANDREWS MD/SDE/FA
AWS SCOTT ILL/CS
ESD HANSCOM AFB MA/OCT
DEPT OF COMMERCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 9083

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, AS
SUBJECT: SOLAR ELECTRO-OPTICAL NETWORK STATION, AUSTRALIA

REF: STATE 304423

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BERNARD DOVE'S PRESENCE IN AUSTRALIA,
POL COUNSELOR, DATT AND DOVE HELD EXTENSIVE PRELIMINARY CONVER-
SATIONS ON S.E.O.N. DEC. 10, 13, AND 14 WITH GOA TEAM HEADED
BY DFA ASST. SECRETARY BRADY. GOA REPS MADE IT CLEAR THAT
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET HAD DECIDED TO APPROVE ESTABLISHMENT
OF S.E.O.N. IN AUSTRALIA. IN EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT, THE ONLY
PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREA WE SEE IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT INVOLVES
THE EVENTUAL LOCATION OF THE STATION. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR
STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A LOCATION IN THE GENERAL AREA OF NORTH
WEST CAPE OVER CARNARVON BECAUSE THE NORTH WEST CAPE AREA STAIS-
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FLIES OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WHICH IS THE TIMELY COL-
LECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF COMPREHENSIVE SOLAR INFOR-
MATION BEGINNING JANUARY 1979 AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER
ON AN UNINTERRUPTED, OPERATIONALLY EFFECTIVE, BASIS. GOA
REPS EXPRESSED AN INITIAL PREFERENCE FOR A CARNARVON LO-
CATION LARGELY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IT TO BE A MORE AT-

TRATICE LIVING AREA WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE GOA MORE EASILY TO RECRUIT AUSTRALIAN TECHNICIANS TO MAN THE STATION. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS, GOA REPS CAME A LONG WAY TOWARD ACCEPTING US VIEWS ON LOCATION.

2. BASED ON THESE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, GOA REPS HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK CABINET DECCISIONS ON LOCATION AND OTHER QTE CORE END QTE QUESTIONS CONCERNING FUNDING AND MANNING OF THE STATION. ON FUNDING, THE GOA'S POSITION IS THAT THE USAF SHOULD PAY ALL COSTS BECAUSE THE GOA'S SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT HAS NO NEED FOR THE ADDITIONAL SOLAR INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY S.E.O.N. OPERATIONS. ON MANNING, WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS OUR GOAL TO RETAIN OPERATIONAL CONTROL, BUT TURN OVER MANAGEMENT, DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANNING OF THE OBSERVATORY TO THE AUSTRALIAN DEPT. OF SCIENCE AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE SUBJECT ONLY TO DOS CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE QUALIFIED AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL AT A COST COMPARABLE TO USAF PERSONNEL. IN BRADY'S VIEW, CABINET COULD LIKELY REACH A DECISION ON THESE QTE CORE END QTE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY. IN EMBASSY VIEW, THESE QTE CORE END QTE DECISIONS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE MID OR LATE FEBRUARY. FOLLOWING DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES, WE BELIEVE THAT A FAVORABLE CABINET DECISION ON AN OVER-ALL AGREEMENT COULD BE TAKEN BY MID-MARCH. GOA WOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE AGREEMENT'S BEING SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT. BRADY SAID THAT THE GOA INTENDS TO EVENTUALLY SUBMIT THE AGREEMENT TO THE UN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 102 QTE AS IT DID ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. END QTE HOWEVER, THIS
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UN SUBMISSION WOULD NOT RPT NOT DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ONCE IT WAS APPROVED IN CABINET AND SIGNED BY THE TWO SIDES.

3. DOVE, WHO DID LEAVE US A COPY OF THE US DRAFT AGREEMENT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, CAN OF COURSE PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS OF OUR PRELIMINARY CONVERSATIONS.
HARGROVE

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NNN

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